THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMONARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is estimated that around 4.73 million ha. under the category of recorded forest area could possibly be brought under forest and tree cover and balance of the deficit of 28.87 million ha. has to be met from culturable waste, fallow and pasture land outside the recorded forest areas.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to meet the shortfall and to achieve the target, are—

(i) Target for tree planting both on private and public land, under 20 Point Programme have been increased.

(ii) The State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to take administrative and operational steps including measures for resource mobilization. These include formation of Coordination Committe of all concerned Departments of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for the purpose, universalization of Joint Forest Management (JFM), extension of Community Participation on Non-Forest Land, supporting the marketing of Forest Products and steps for broad basing the resources

(iii) State Government/Union Territory Administrations have also been advised to formulate a communication strategy and a media plan to generate mass awareness about tree planting.

Developing Bamboo Market

229. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop the bamboo market and to set up a National Bamboo Development Board for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) areas where the bamboo plantation is proposed to be taken up; and

(d) whether the project would create additional job opportunities, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to setup a National Bamboo Development Board, however, a National Mission on Bamboo Applications has been set up in the Department of Science and Technology to provide new impetus and direction to bamboo applications to ensure realisation of the considerable socio-economic and environmenal potential of bamboo. In addition, a National Misson on Bamboo Technology & Trade Development has been mooted by Planning commission to accord bamboo development a strategic role in rural economy, poverty alleviation and bamboo based handicrafts and industrial development, with Ministry of Agriculture as the Nodal Ministry.

(c) In so far as bamboo plantation is concerned, it is one of the components of National Afforestation Programme Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Under the Scheme, bamboo plantation over an area of 59,261 hectares in 23 States has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan up to 31.3.2004.

(d) In so far as additional job opportunities under bamboo plantation component of National Afforestation Programme Scheme is concerned, approximately 5.93 lakh mandays would be created.

Recycling of imported electronic scrap

230. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic scrap sent from England is being recycled in the country releasing both permanent pollution and irreversible health damage; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to stop such import in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Electronic scrap is included under List A & List B of Schedule-3 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended from time